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travels I never saw such great perfection as our reformers at home seemed to have found in their foreign travels; prisons are blamed at times when the fault is in human nature with all its imperfections; the prison will continue to exist so long as wolfish ignorance preys upon its helpless neighbor; we must bear in mind that the human race contains beasts just as wild as lions and tigers which are to be found in the jungles of Africa. Incompetency and ignorance are the causes of many of our human errors; ignorance intrusted with power causes many abuses; but the prisons will bear a satisfactory scrutiny and comparison with most of our schoolhouses; in fact many of the prison problems of today can be traced back to the schoolhouse where the unrestrained, undisciplined youth was not corrected at the proper time but was allowed to run riot until he got beyond all legitimate control.—*Joseph Matthew Sullivan*, Boston, Massachusetts.

POLICE.

Annual Report of St. Louis Police Department.—The Annual Report of the St. Louis Police Department for 1917 is devoted to the presentation of routine police statistics and personnel data, which is of little value to students, executives or the general public.

The St. Louis Department has a Bureau of Efficiency consisting of two captains, a lieutenant and a patrolman, assigned monthly by the Chief of Police, which exercises the functions of a civil service commission in conducting examinations for appointment and promotion, which has charge of the service instruction and the service records of the members of the uniformed force and which investigates all complaints against police officers, acting as a court-martial in the case of minor offenses and preferring charges for trial before the police board in more serious cases.

The Department also publishes a weekly Police Journal which is devoted not only to the publication of formal orders and newly enacted statutes and ordinances but also to other material tending to increase the working efficiency or the personal welfare of the members of the police force.

LEONHARD FELIX FULD, *New York City*.

Legal Training for Police Officers.—"Case and Comment," the Lawyer's Magazine, calls attention in a recent number [Volume XXIV, No. 5, page 387, October, 1917] to the need for the legal training of police officers. After mentioning the efforts recently made by Harvard, Columbia, Northwestern University and the University of California to meet this need, it says that this legal training cannot be given to policemen by police officials whose knowledge of the law is almost wholly empirical, nor can it be given to them best by college professors whose knowledge of police work is wholly theoretical.

This instruction should be given to them by men of broad university culture and special training in law and in political science. It should be given to them by men who have had in addition, practical experience in police work. It should be given to them without fee, charge or expense to any police officer, since the benefit to the service resulting from this legal training of police officers will be immeasurably greater than the incidental benefit to the police officer in enabling him to secure promotion and finally, if practicable, this training should be given to police officers without expense to the city.

All of these conditions can be successfully met by encouraging able, well-educated, ambitious, young police magistrates to undertake this source of instruction of policemen in addition to the routine duties of a magistrate. In most cities the official duties of a police magistrate do not occupy his whole time

and in those cities in which police magistrates are required to sit all day they alternate a cycle of days of service on the bench with a cycle of days of rest from their judicial duties. These men are admirably suited by education and by experience to undertake this important educational work.

LEONHARD FELIX FULD.

Annual Report of New York Police Department.—The annual report of the New York Police Department for the year 1916, in the section devoted to the discussion of current police problems, devotes considerable space to the discussion of police problems arising from war conditions, to the establishment of a merit system for the members of the uniformed force, to the establishment of the Auxiliary Home Defense League, the extension and development of the curriculum of the training school and the police campaign for the reduction of street accidents and juvenile delinquency. Excellent half-tone illustrations add to the value of this section of the report for the general reader.

For the professional reader the statistical tables to which more than one hundred pages of the report are devoted possess special interest. The statistics of arrests are presented under a decimal system of crime classification which has been elaborately developed in the interests of clarity of presentation and which should be adopted by all police departments with a view to securing uniformity of statistical presentation and a common ground for comparison. Graphs, percentages, comparisons with the preceding year and elaborate analyses are added when needed for adequacy of presentation.

Of the new activities undertaken by the police during this year, of which special mention should be made, the principal ones are the systematic aid given to released convicts, the establishment of a departmental psychopathic laboratory, the organization of a police chorus, Christmas trees in station houses for the children of the poor and the extension of the juvenile police.

The Law of Illegal Public Speaking.—One of the most difficult police problems in urban communities, arising from the war, is the differentiation between the freedom of speech and its licentiousness which the police may lawfully curb in their efforts to suppress seditious gatherings and utterances. In a pamphlet of sixteen pages Magistrate Frederick B. House of New York has prepared for the use of magistrates and police officers in New York City a clear exposition of the present law on this subject, with an adequate citation of the principal decisions.

This pamphlet is deserving of the most careful study by all peace officers and by the judicial officers charged with the duty of maintaining the peace in American cities during the present international emergency.

Pennsylvania Commission on Penal Code.—Governor Brumbaugh of the State of Pennsylvania, has just appointed a commission of five to revise the penal code of the State of Pennsylvania, composed of the following persons:

Chairman, Edward M. Abbott of Philadelphia, secretary of the American Institute, and chairman of a similar committee of the State Bar Association of Pennsylvania; secretary, Wm. E. Mikell of Philadelphia, dean of the law school of the University of Pennsylvania; George C. Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, Pa., Clarence D. Coughlin, Wilkesbarre, and Lex N. Mitchell, Punxsutawny.

The duty of this Commission is to recommend to the legislature of 1919 changes in the existing criminal laws and to codify the law in so far as it is possible.—R. H. G.